

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 EUR-10 RSR-01 /064 W

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R 251051Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5106

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13443

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 3 SITREP-25 JULY 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP

RTAFB JULY 25 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE BIEN HOA 0325

1. MR3 G2 REPORTS 56 MILITARY CLASHES DURING THE 48 HOUR PERIOD
ENDING 0800 JULY 25. THERE WERE 27 INCIDENTS IN THE FIRST 24
HOURS, AND 29 IN THE SECOND 24 HOURS; TWO COORDINATED GROUND/ABF'S,
27 ATTACKS BY FIRE (THREE OVER 20 ROUNDS), 15 GROUND CONTACTS,
ONE SMALL ARMS HARASSMENT, EIGHT GRENADE/MINE DETONATIONS (OF
WHICH TWO WERE CIVILIAN), TWO ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRINGS, AND A
TERRORIST INCIDENT IN WHICH A GRENADE WAS THROWN AT A CIVILIAN
HOME IN HAU NGHIA (WOUNDING ONE CIVILIAN). GVN LOSSES WERE 9
KILLED (ONE CIVILIAN), 37 WOUNDED (THREE CIVILIANS), ON TRUCKT
WAS 30 PERCENT DAMAGED BY A MINE 10 KM NW PHU CUONG IN BINH DUONG
PROVINCE. REPORTED VC/NVA LOSSES FOR THE SAME PERIOD WERE
30 KIA, 3 CIA; CAPTURED EQUIPMENT INCLUDED; FIVE AK-47'S, THREE
M-72 LAW'S, ONE B-40 RL, ONE M-1 CARBINE, 11,000 RDS SMALL
AMMUNITION, FOUR B-40 ROUNDS, AND ONE DESTROYED 57MM RR, FIVE
TUNNELS WERE DESTROYED. SEVEN COMMUNISTS RALLIED TO THE GVN SIDE;
TWO IN BINH DUONG, TWO IN PHUOC LONG, TWO (KHMER ROUGE) IN TAY
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NINH, AND ONE IN HAU NGHIA.

2. THERE WERE 24 CLASHES IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, OF WHICH 18 WERE IN PHU GIAO AREA, ACCOUNTING FOR 4 ARVN KIA AND 16 WIA, AND 28 COMMUNISTS REPORTED KILLED. BINH LONG AND PHUOC TUY HAD SEVEN EACH; HAU NGHIA FOUR, LONG KHANH, BIEN HOA, AND PHUOC LONG THREE EACH, GIA DINH TWO, AND TAY NINH ONE.

3. ONE OF THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRINGS WAS 7 KM SE OF KHIEM HANH DISTRICT TOWN IN TAY NINH, IN WHICH AN L-19 LIGHT OBSERVATION PLANE TOOK 15 ROUNDS AND MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING AT CU CHI. RVNAF CLAIMS IT WAS ON A ROUTINE BIEN HOA-TAY NINH TRAINING FLIGHT BUT IN VIEW OF THE NUMBER OF HITS RECORDED AND THE EMERGENCY FIELD UTILIZED, MORE PROBABLY THE AIRCRAFT WAS FLYING A SPOTTER MISSION IN NORTHWEST HAU NGHIA OR SOUTHWEST TAY NINH. OTHER ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRING WAS BY SA-7 AT AN A/C 119, WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS, 15 KM NE CONG THANH DISTRICT TOWN IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE.

R. AT POLISH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION JULY 22, ICCS V CANDEL CHIEF COL. MORROW WAS DRUNK, ABUSIVE, AND INSULTING TO POLISH HOSTS, AND TO CONGEN AND MEMBERS OF CONGEN STAFF. AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE COMPLAINED THAT WE WERE REPORTING "EVERYTHING I SAY" TO SAIGON. HE URGED CONGEN TO "GO HOME" AND BRANDED A CONSUL AS "A CIA AGENT". HE RESPONDED TO CONGEN'S INVITATION TO FAREWELL DRINKS BY SUGGESTING NOON JULY 25 WHICH TURNS OUT TO BE HALF HOUR AFTER REGION V CANDELS ARE EXPECTED TO LEAVE FOR SAIGON. LATER, HE AGREED TO COME OVER TO CONGEN OFFICE AT 0900 JULY 25. COMMENT: COL. MORROW IS HOT TEMPERED INFANTRY OFFICER, A VETERAN OF CANADIAN PEACE KEEPING MISSIONS IN KOREA, CYPRUS, AND OTHER PLACES. HIS CONCEPT OF PEACE KEEPING MEANS KNOCKING HEADS TOGETHER, AND HE HAS CHAFED UNDER THE STRUCTURALLY IMPOSED IMPOTENCE OF THE ICCS. HIS PERFORMANCE DURING THE SEARCH FOR THE MISSING CANADIAN OFFICERS WAS SO ERRATIC THAT HIS SAIGON SUPERIORS FINALLY HAD TO TELL HIM TO STAY COMPLETELY OUT OF IT. HIS COMPLAINT ABOUT OUR REPORTING EVERYTHING HE SAID SEEMS NAIVE AND SELF-SERVING, BUT OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH REGION V CANDELS HAS BEEN THREATENED BEFORE BECAUSE OF INABILITY OF ADDRESSEES TO EXERCISE DISCRETION IN DISCUSSING SUBJECT MATTER OF OUR REPORTS ON THEM WITH CANDELS IN SAIGON, OR IN ONE CASE TO PREVENT PRESS DISCLOSURE OF A REPORT. SINCE SAIGON CANDELS ARE WELL AWARE OF MORROW'S STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES, AND ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE IN ANY CASE, WE REQUEST THAT ADDRESSEES SAY NOTHING RPT NOTHING WHATEVER TO CANDELS ABOUT THIS MATTER

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END COMMENT.

5. OUTGOING ICCS V INDODEL CHIEF COL. SOEJARTO AND HIS SUCCESSOR COL DADING TOLD CONSUL JULY 26 THAT MALAYSIA IS TOO "IMMATURE" AND LACKING IN POLITICAL STABILITY TO REPLACE CANADA ON THE ICCS. THEY THOUGHT MALAYSIA LACKS "IDEOLOGY" AND IS THEREFORE OVERLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO INFLUENCE FROM A STRONG DOMESTIC COMMUNIST PARTY. COLS. SOEJARTO AND DADING THOUGHT PRINCIPAL QUALIFICATION FOR NEW ICCS MEMBER IS CLEAR AND FORCEFUL ANTI-

COMMUNISM.

6. ANOTHER OUTGOING INDODEL, AND AIR FORCE MAJOR WHO HAD JUST MET AND BRIEFED COL. DADING, TOLD US HIS FIRST IMPRESSION WAS THAT LATTER WAS "AN INFANTRY OFFICER. I REPEAT, AN INFANTRY OFFICER" WHO HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN INDONESIA IN ROOTING OUT THE COMMUNIST INFRASTRUCTURE IN AREAS UNDER HIS COMMAND. WE INFER THAT THE MAJOR THOUGHT COL. DADING MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT ILL AT EASE AMID THE NUANCES OF THE ICCS.

7. CONGEN TAY NINH RRO LOCAL REPORTS THAT A RECENT ICCS VISIT TO SEVERAL GVN VILLAGES RESULTED IN YET ANOTHER INCIDENT BETWEEN CANADIAN, POLISH, AND HUNGARIAN DELEGATIONS. THE POLES AND HUNS DEMANDED TO KNOW WHAT THE LOCAL PEOPLE WOULD SAY IN THEIR SPEECHES, AND WHAT QUESTIONS THE POLES AND HUNS COULD EXPECT FROM THE LOCALS BEFORE AGREEING TO THE VISIT. THE CHIEF CANDEL OF THE CU CHI TEAM REPLIED; "WHY ARE YOU FELLOWS SO DUMB* IF SOMEONE INVITES US WE SHOULD GO. WHEN WE GET THERE, WE'LL HEAR WHAT THE PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY. IN ANY EVENT VIETNAMESE LIVING IN THE GVN ARE FRIENDLY, EASY GOING AND PEACEFUL, NOT LIKE THE VC" THE HUNS AND POLES THEN REFUSED TO GO ALONG ON THE VILLAGE VISIT UNLESS THE CHIEF CANDEL WHO HAD "INSULTED" THEM STAYED HOME AND SENT A CAPTAIN IN HIS STEAD. THE CHIEF CANDEL BALKED AT THIS AND WENT ALONG HIMSELF ON THE VISIT SO THE POLES AND HUNS STAYED HOME.

8. VC/NVA IN TAY NINH PROVINCE ARE TELLING VILLAGERS THAT THE NEW GVN VALUE ADDED TAX IS DESIGNED TO BLEED THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE DRY. RELYING ON THE WIDE SCALE MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE TAX, THEY CLAIM THAT PRICES WILL BE 50 PERCENT HIGHER SINCE EACH MIDDLEMAN WILL PASS ON HIS 10 PERCENT TAX TO THE CONSUMER. THE COMMUNISTS CLAIM THAT THE TAX WILL FALL HEAVIEST ON THE POOR, MAKING THEIR LIVES EVEN MORE MISERABLE THAT AT PRESENT. SIGNED WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE
MARTIN

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